

25 August 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Resignation of Quadros

1. The possibility of trouble in Brazil, and the tendency of Quadros to hasty and dramatic action, has been recognized for some time; WHB drew attention to it on 24 August, in a "Survey of Cold War Crisis Situations", and in a National Intelligence Estimate on 3 August.

2. We think it likely that Quadros resigned in the expectation of provoking a strong manifestation of popular support, in response to which he would return to office in a better position against his opponents. (Fidel Castro resigned once for this purpose, and Peron more than once.) Although the higher ranks of the army dislike Quadros, they would probably not oppose his return in such circumstances.

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3. If Quadros does not come back, we believe that the next government will follow a conservative, though nationalist, policy because the army will not tolerate anything else.

4. Vice President Goulart, the constitutional successor, is returning from Communist China, and will not be on hand for at least a few days. He is strongly leftist, and the army would be unlikely to allow him to exert real control of Brazilian policy.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

ABBOT SMITH
Acting Chairman

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